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SOURCE Verdens Gang.

POLES WILLING TO PAY FANTASTIC PRICES FOR SHIPS

According to a report received by Verdens Gang, a Polish-Chinese shipping company, Polskochinsko Kompania Zeglugowa, is being formed. The Poles are offering fantastic prices and are dealing through middlemen from other countries. It seems that they are willing to pay any price for ships and will take them regardless of their condition. According to the same report, the Poles are supposed to have succeeded in acquiring the 8,800-ton Swedish ship Axel Salen and seven Danish and five Norwegian ships.

Verdens Gang referred the report of the sale of Norwegian ships to one of the country's leading ship brokers. He answered immediately that such transactions were out of the question. It is quite correct that the Poles have attempted to purchase ships here and that they have offered steep prices, but no ships have been sold to Poland. There have not been any sales to Sweden either so that no ships could have gone to Poland via Sweden.

When the Poles do not succeed in purchasing ships directly, they resort to negotiating through agents from other countries. They have been suspected of operating through Switzerland. The Poles want to purchase ships of 8,000-9,000 tons with a speed of about 14 miles. A short time ago, they offered 2 million dollars for a vessel of about 8,000-9,000 tons worth 1,500,000. They are willing to pay 25 percent over the market price. This Polish interest in ships can be traced back to the fall of 1950.

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